1 ATONEMENT ARC

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
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ART BY
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Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

THE FIRST TIME, I THINK TO MYSELF,
WELL, IT'S ONLY THIS ONCE.
THE TRAGEDY I COULDN'T AVOID.

THE SECOND TIME, I AM SHOCKED
THAT IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
THE TRAGEDY I COULDN'T AVOID.

IT'S ONLY JUNE, BUT IT'S STARTING TO GET HOT...

RIKA ...

LOOKS LIKE THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE THE SAME UN-SEASONABLE WEATHER WE ALWAYS GET.....

THE THIRD TIME, IT GOES
BEYOND SHOCK TO AGONY.
ONCE IT REACHES SEVEN,
IT STARTS TO BECOME A COMEDY.

Frederica Bernkastel

CHAPTER 1: HAPPY RENA

THIS YEAR, HOW MANY TIMES...

...WILL I HEAR THE HIGURASHI CRY...?

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

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EARLY SUMMER 1983

HINAMIZAWA

ONCE AGAIN.

!?!!
BA (WHOOSH)
YOU ALL UNDER-STAND CLEARLY WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY, RIGHT!?

YEEEAH!

TODAY THE WHOLE CLASS IS JOINING OUR CLUB ACTIVITY!
THIS WILL BE FUN! IT WILL!
FOR P.E., WE'RE HAVING A WATER GUN BATTLE!!
THAT'S HINAMI-ZAWA FOR YOU!

I'M KEIICHI MAEBARA.

IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO WEEKS SINCE I MOVED TO THE SMALL VILLAGE OF HINAMIZAWA.

CHAPON (SPLISH)

チャポン

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY ...

...FRESH AIR...

IN THE CITY, ALL WE DID WAS STUDY HARD EVERY DAY...

...BUT HERE IT'S DIFFERENT !!

HO-HO-HO! YOU'D BEST NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

...AND FUN FRIENDS.

THIS ONE'S NAME IS SATOKO HOJO.

SHE'S A BRATTY LITTLE UPSTART WHO LIKES TO MAKE MISCHIEF.

OH HO HO!

...THERE'S A PENALTY GAME WAITING FOR THE LOSERS!

FOR THOSE OF US IN THE CLUB...

THIS GIRL IS RIKA FURUDE-CHAN.

SHE'S A VERY QUIET, BUT VERY LEVEL-HEADED LITTLE GIRL.

MEW

MEW...

MEW ...

IT'S ANOTHER EMBARRASSING PENALTY TODAY, SIR.

MION SONO-ZAKI.

THE LEADER OF OUR CLUB WITH A TOM-BOYISH, WILD PERSONALITY.

HEH HEH HEH!

YOU AND RENA HAVE BEEN REGULAR CUSTOMERS AT THE PENALTY GAMES LATELY, KEI-CHAN.

THE FIVE MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB COMPETE AT GAMES...

DAMMIT, DON'T REMIND ME...

フッフッフッ...
HEH-HEH-HEH...

...WERE QUITE A SIGHT TO SEE, WEREN'T THEY?

MEW

THE COSTUMES YOU WORE LAST TIME...

OHH...

...AND CRUEL PENALTIES AWAIT THE LOSERS ...!!

CAT (AND DOG) EARS + COLLAR + MINISKIRT MAID COSTUMES

AMBITION AND GOOD FORTUNE HAVE THEIR FAVORITES TOO, YOU KNOW...

OH-HO-HO-HO!

...SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED ...

OH HO HO HO HO HO!

OHH... IF RENA HAS TO WEAR THAT AGAIN...

GWAAAAH!!

...YOU TWO HAVE BEEN A PAIR OF FAILURES!

RENA-SAN, KEIICHI-SAN, FOR THE LAST LITTLE WHILE ...

BASA FWOOSH

はぁ

ーーぉ!

THE DISGRACE OF THE DEFEATED

THE GLORY OF THE VICTOR

NGHGH ...

GURI

...IT JUST BACKFIRES AND BACK-FIRES.

GURI (GRIND)

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY...

YOU DO SEEM TO HAVE DEVEL-OPED A HABIT OF LOSING.

HEH...

ERGH. ERRGH ...

OHH...

KEIICHI, RENA. FIGHT! WHOO! SIR.

YOU ALL DREW A STARTING POINT! GET INTO POSITION!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S START THE ACTIVITY!

WHY, YOU... YEAH, GO AHEAD AND TALK ALL YOU WANT...!!

GU

GU

GU!! (CLLLLENCH)

SFX: PAN (CLAP) PAN

ぽつん…

SFX: POTSUN (ALONE)

DO TRY YOUR BEST TO GET AWAY FROM ME!

WAAAH!

IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO BE THE FIRST ONE OUT!

...I START TO FEEL LIKE I'LL NEVER WIN AGAIN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

WHEN THEY PUT IT LIKE THAT...

OHH...

SHE HAS THE BEST HEAD ON HER SHOULDERS OF ANYONE IN OUR GROUP.

AND IT'S OFTEN A STRUGGLE FOR HER TO WIN CLUB ACTIVITIES.

OHH...

HER NAME IS RENA RYUGU.

HEY RENA.

A DE-PRESSED FACE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON RENA...

IF THEY'RE GOING TO TALK TO US LIKE THAT, WE CAN'T LET THEM BEAT US!

THIS IS A MATTER OF PRIDE.

KEI-ICHI-KUN ...

.....

...YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT ...

LET'S GO WIN!!

WE'LL SHOW THEM!

ALL RIGHT, KEIICHI-KUN.

I WON'T GO EASY ON ANYONE TODAY EITHER.

...NOW THAT'S A GOOD FACE.

NIYARI (SMIRK)

...RENA IS REALLY STRONG.

BUT WHEN IT'S IMPORTANT ...

NORMALLY SHE LOOKS NERVOUS AND HELP-LESS...

OHH...

OH...

...NOW IS THAT TIME.

AND ...

KURU (SPIN)

ALLL RIGHT ...

KURU

THEN I'D BETTER PLAY SOME SERIOUS HARDBALL TOO!

HERE'S TO A GOOD FIGHT !!

PAAAN (CLAP)

YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET GETTING ME AND RENA TO GO ALL OUT...!!

MION, SATO-KO!

ONE.

TWO ...

THREE ...

PAN (BANG)

START!!

WHOOOOAAA!!

RRRRRAAHH!!

EEP ...!

PAAN

MAEBARA-SAN'S FIGHTING SPIRIT IS DIFFERENT TODAY...

WHOA .. HE ANNIHI-LATED THE WHOLE AREA BEFORE I COULD BLINK...

BLAME THE FACT THAT YOU STARTED NEXT TO ME!!

I AIN'T HOLDING BACK JUST 'COS YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN ME!

!

WHAT TRICK IS SHE GONNA PULL ON ME TODAY ...?

MON'S IN THE SCHOOL YARD...

WHAT IS THAT ...!?

WHA ...

COME ON, COME ON, BRING IT!!

AAH-HA-HA!

THERE'S NO COMPETITION HERE.

HUH? YOU'RE ALL OUT ALREADY?

AREN'T MACHINE GUNS AGAINST THE RULES !!?

THAT'S DIRTY, MION!

ZA (SKFF)

IT'S NO USE... WE CAN'T BEAT THAT ...!

SHE KILLED US ALL IN AN INSTANT ...

YOU FOUGHT YOUR WAY HERE FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.

OH, KEI-CHAN ...

THERE AREN'T ANY RULES ABOUT WHAT WEAPONS YOU CAN USE.

GU (CLENCH)

BUT YOU'RE STILL SO NAIVE.

WHATEVER THE WATER GUN...

UWAH!!

ALL THAT MATTERS IS GETTING WATER ON YOUR OPPONENT!

BON (BOOM)

KUH!

NOW COME AND GET ME, KEI-CHAN.

USING LOOPHOLES IN ORDER TO WIN IS CLUB LAW!

SUCH WATER-POWER ...!!

THE RANGE OF HER GUN IS MUCH GREATER THAN MINE.

AS SOON AS I GET CLOSE, I'LL BE IN THE HORNET'S NEST...

HOW CAN I WIN...!?

THINK, KEIICHI MAE-BARA ...

HEH. THAT'S FINE BY ME...

THAT'S IT...!!

KACH. (CLICK)

ALL THAT MATTERS IS GETTING WATER ON YOUR OPPONENT.

——!!

NOTH-ING IS IMPOS-SIBLE!

FOR KEIICHI MAE-BARA!!

DA (DASH)

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY RESPECT FOR YOUR SPIRIT TODAY, KEI-CHAN.

HEH!

HOW-EVER.

YOU'RE UNDER-ESTIMAT-ING ME TODAY, MION!!

I HAVE A BETTER RANGE THAN YOU, AND YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT!!

JAKON (KA-CLICK)

ドドド

EAT THIS !!

HE THREW HIS GUN !?

...WHA ...?

...I'LL MAKE IT REACH YOU!!

IF THE WATER WON'T REACH YOU ...

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY UNDER-ESTI-MATING ME!

GETTING DESPER-ATE? I MIS-JUDGED YOU, KEI-CHAN.

NO!

Y-YOU UNDID THE STOPPER!?

TOO LATE!!

I DON'T HAVE TO SHOOT YOU WITH WATER.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET WATER ON YOU, AND YOU'RE OUT...

AND THE WATER THAT FLIES OUT OF THE GUN...

BALIN (BOUNCE)

...FROM OUTSIDE YOUR FIRING RANGE.

I THROW MY GUN AT YOUR FEET...

KYAAA!!

PISHA (SPLASH)

...WILL HIT YOU!!

I MIS-CALCULATED YOUR TENACITY, KEI-CHAN...

TO THINK THIS WOULD BE HOW YOU'D MAKE UP FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN RANGE ...

SHE... SHE LOST ...

NO.

ONE? BUT RENA AND SATOKO ARE BOTH STILL...

<!!

...NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT.

THERE'S ONLY ONE.

SATOKO ...?

SA...

SA STEP

+!!...

I'VE LOST...

I...

DO (DUN)

HEH...I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED NO LESS, RENA.

RENA...!!

TAKING DOWN MII-CHAN INSTANTLY. I'M IMPRESSED ...

YOU TOO, KEIICHI-KUN.

...BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN BREATHING HARD.

YOU JUST BEAT SA-TOKO ...

HE SMIRK)
ニヤ

NIKO (SMILE)
ニコ

BA (BAM)

...
HAS BE-GUN ...!!
THE FINAL BATTLE ...

PAN (BANG)

YOU MOVE RIDICULOUSLY WELL!!

PAAAN

YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT, RENA!

YOU TOO, KEIICHI-KUN! YOU MOVE LIKE A PRO!!

PAN

PAN

JUST WATCHING HER GIVES ME CHILLS.
WHEN RENA GETS SERIOUS, SHE IS A MASTER ...

WOW ...
THEY'RE BOTH COOL...

IT'S IM-POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHO WILL WIN, SIR.
AND TO BE EVENLY MATCHED WITH HER...
...KEIICHI-SAN IS QUITE GOOD HIMSELF...!

THAT RENA IS GOOD...

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117

THIS ...

THIS

...IS SO MUCH FUN...

...PLAYED THIS HARD WITH FRIENDS IN THE CITY!

I NEVER

...AND ...

BLUE SKY, WHITE CLOUDS ...

...THE BEST FRIENDS A GUY COULD ASK FOR!!

I WANT THINGS TO BE LIKE THIS FOREVER...

HANG IN THERE, RYUGU-SAN!

GOOD LUCK, MAE-BARA-SAN!

THIS WILL FINISH IT.

...WE BOTH ONLY HAVE ENOUGH WATER LEFT FOR ONE SHOT.

ZA (SKID)

TU!!

...I REALLY HAD FUN.

THIS HAS BEEN THE BEST CLUB ACTIVITY WE'VE EVER HAD.

ME TOO, RENA...

CHA.

チャ...

CHA (CLICK)

チャ...

SHIN (SILENCE)

ZA (SKID)

LET'S SETTLE THIS !!

BA (FWD)

RIIIN (RIIING)

RIIIN..

TIME'S UP, SIR.

MEW... CLASS IS OVER.

BUT ...

WHA ...?

スー...
SU SSU
THIS MATCH ...
...UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
HMM ...
HOW WILL WE DECIDE THE WINNER ...!?
AWWWW!!
WE'LL FINISH THIS FIGHT LATER !!
...WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME!
...
OH?
...IF YOU SAY SO, RENA...
TH-THAT'S TOO BAD... BUT WE'LL JUST LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT TIME...
CAN YOU... DO THAT ...?
...EH?
RENA, YOU HURT YOUR ELBOW.
GAKKURI (GLOOM)

OH, SHE CAN JUST SPIT ON IT. IT'LL BE FINE.

NO, WE HAVE TO GIVE IT PROPER MEDICAL ATTEN-TION.

IT'D BE DANGER-OUS TO LEAVE IT.

GUH (GRAB)

I-IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST A SCRAPE.

WH-WHAT? DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!

KUI (TUG)

KUI

KEIICHI.

OH-HO? CITY BOYS SURE ARE DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE SATOKO!

OH! THAT'S MY RIKA-CHAN! YOU'RE PREPARED!

WHY ARE YOU BRING-ING ME UP!?

BI (PWIP)

SO I BROUGHT A FIRST-AID KIT, SIR.

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

に

な！

ぺた
PETA (STICK)

THERE.

YOU GET BETTER BEFORE OUR NEXT CLUB ACTIVITY.

I DISINFECTED IT AND EVERYTHING NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

MM-HM. MM-HM. OH, YOUTH.

TH-THANK YOU, KEIICHI-KUN...

R-RIGHT ...

HOLD IT, MION.

LATER!

WELL, THIS OLD MAN'S OUTTA HERE...

NNGH!

URK!

ZUI

C.OOMO

YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING, DON'T YOU?

... PLAY THE PEN-ALTY GAME !!

THE LOS-ERS ...

BISHI (WHIP)

Angel Mort

COME IN, MASTER.

AND SO...

...THE NEXT DAY...

WELCOME TO ANGEL MORT!!

キュムリラリン

KYUMURIRARIN (SPARKLY-SPARKLE)

THIS IS INCRED-IBLE ...!!

TH...

NNNGH, I DO FEEL KIND OF AWKWARD IN THIS.

BON (POOF)

ぼん!!

MION IS WEARING THE ULTIMATE COMBO— A SAILOR COLLAR BLOUSE WITH BLOOMERS!!

MEW... IT'S EMBARRASSING TO HAVE YOU STARE AT ME, SIR...

AND RIKA-CHAN IS WEARING A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT WITH AN ANGEL MORT UNIFORM!!

ペタン (DA-DUN)

ペタン!

THIS OUTFIT IS JUST TOO MUCH...!

SATOKO IS IN AN ORTHODOX MAID COSTUME!

キュン (TWANG)

キュン!

WELL DONE, KEIICHI MAEBARA!! I'M IM-PRESSED!!

WHOOOA!!

I... HAVE CREATED A SPEC-TACULAR SHANGRI-LA!!

Y-YOU THREE ARE ALL SO ADOW-ABLE ...

... ERK, HUH ...?

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE WE WORKED SO HARD YESTER-DAY!!

RENA!!

BA (BAM)

ALL OF YOU— I-I-I'M...

OHH!

OHHHH!

CRAP! THIS ALREADY ...?

WHOOOA!!

...I'M TAKING YOU ALL HOME WITH ME!!!

RENA HAS A WEAKNESS FOR "ADOWABLE" THINGS.

OHHH!

SHE IMMEDIATELY GOES CRAZY.

SO MUCH FOR ENJOYING THE LEFTOVER EXCITEMENT FROM YESTERDAY ...

HAAH...

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO SIT THERE SIGHING...

...WILL YOU PLEASE STOP RENA-SAN?

OWAH!

SHION!?

HELLO-ELLO! HOW ARE YOU, KEI-CHAN?

SHE WORKS PART-TIME HERE AT ANGEL MORT.

THIS IS SHION SONO-ZAKI. MION'S TWIN SISTER.

...KEI-CHAN, IF YOU...

SU (SSK)

OH, DON'T WORRY.

WHEN SHE'S IN "ADOW-ABLE" MODE, RENA IS INVINCIBLE.

MY APOLOGIES TO THE RESTAURANT, BUT ONCE RENA GETS LIKE THAT, NO ONE CAN STOP HER.

WHA ...!?

RENA...

K... KEIICHI-KUN...

...WHISPER SWEET NOTHINGS IN HER EAR, YOU'LL TAKE HER DOWN IN A SNAP.

WH-WH-WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?

GATAN (CLATTER)

TEE HEE HEE

OOOH! YOU'RE BRIGHT RED.

Hg.!

S-STOP TALKING STUPID!

THEN I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS.

MAYBE ONEE STILL HAS A CHANCE.

I GUESS I'LL GO ENJOY THIS PENALTY GAME!

A-ANY-WAY.

STILL, THEY ALL...

...REALLY ARE...

...SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.

KANA

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

カ+カ+カ+…

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

NNGH, MY STOMACH HURTS...

EVERYONE IN THE RESTAURANT GOT INTO IT. IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.

'COS WE HAD TO GO AND HAVE AN EATING CONTEST AFTER EVERY-THING ELSE.

YOU'RE STILL WEARING THAT BAND-AID?

... HUH?

I THOUGHT I WOULD LEAVE IT ON A LITTLE LONGER...

Y- YES...

YEAH. IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE RENA'S EXCITEMENT CALMS DOWN...

THE WHOLE DAY WAS A LOT OF FUN, HUH...?

OH...?

ｈｔｈｔｈｔ...
ｈｔｈｔｈｔ...

TWILIGHT IN HINA-MIZAWA...

ｈｔｈｔｈｔ...
ｈｔｈｔ...

FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL SO CONTENT...

THE CRY OF THE HIGURASHI SOUNDS SO CALM SOME-HOW...

KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA..

...I NEVER HAD THIS MUCH FUN EVERY SINGLE DAY.

BEFORE I MOVED HERE...

?

...HEY RENA.

KEIICHI-KUN...

...HAS MADE ME HAPPY...

I THINK MOVING TO HINA-MIZAWA ...

...BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FUN IT'S BEEN EVERY DAY.

RENA FEELS THE SAME WAY.

I MOVED TO HINAMIZAWA ONE YEAR AGO...

RIN (RING)

RIN

OH ...

SCHOOL HAS BEEN FUN THIS WHOLE YEAR LONG.

I REALLY AM GLAD I CAME TO HINA-MIZAWA.

YEAH.

OH. SO YOU'RE A TRANSFER STUDENT TOO, RENA?

.....

PITA... PITA (STOP)

...YOU'RE HAPPY TOO, RENA?

SO ...

WHAT'S WRONG ...?

YES.

RENA IS HAPPY.

YEAH.

.....

RENA SHOWED ME AN AMAZING SMILE.

BUT I WONDER WHY...

I THOUGHT ...

..FOR A SECOND ..

...HER SMILE LOOKED SAD...

KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
カナカナカナ…
カナカナカナ…
KANA
KANA
KANA

KEIICHI-KUN KEPT WAVING AND WAVING, LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

YOU'RE...

...HAPPY TOO, RENA?

.....

YES...

(GYU... SQUEEZE)

I'M A HAPPY GIRL...

...JUST LIKE KEIICHI-KUN SAYS.

I'M RENA RYUGU. I MOVED TO HINAMI-ZAWA ONE YEAR AGO...

...AND BECAME TRULY HAPPY.

MII-CHAN COMES UP WITH ONE FUN GAME AFTER ANOTHER.

SATOKO-CHAN IS BRIMMING WITH MISCHIEF.

RIKA-CHAN IS SHREWD, BUT I CAN'T HATE HER.

AND KEIICHI-KUN IS REALLY INTER-ESTING.

...I'VE MET SO MANY WONDERFUL FRIENDS. IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DREAM.

NO, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WINS OR WHO LOSES.

I WONDER IF I CAN WIN THE NEXT TIME WE FIGHT...

SFX: GYU (SQUEEZE)

IT'S TOO BAD WE RAN OUT OF TIME, THOUGH.

CLUB WAS FUN YESTERDAY TOO...

I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WE CAN HAVE A REMATCH.

I WANT TO FIGHT KEIICHI-KUN AGAIN WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

REINA, YOU WERE OUT LATE.

NIKO (SMILE)

AH-HA. SORRY.

DAD, I'M HOME!

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

OH! YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE NEXT TOWN!

WE WENT TO OKINOMIYA TODAY. WE HAD A LOT OF FUN.

SEE? CAKE!

CHOKON (TA-DAA) ちょこん!

AND I BROUGHT YOU A SOUVENIR, DAD!

BECAUSE TODAY REALLY WAS SUCH A WONDER-FUL DAY.

I'M SHARING THIS HAPPINESS WITH MY DAD.

I'LL GO GET SOME PLATES!

YOU GOT YOUR DAD'S FAVORITE SHORT-CAKE!

WELCOME HOME, REINA-CHAN! ♡

OH!

TEE HEE! ♡

R-RINA, YOU COULD AT LEAST PUT SOME CLOTHES ON.

...I'M HAPPY.

...HELLO, RINA-SAN.

GACHA (CLINK)

カチャ

DOKUN (BADUM)

YES. EVEN IF...

...MY DAD BRINGS HIS LOVER ...

...TO OUR HOUSE EVERY DAY.

HERE! SAY "AH!"

AHHH! ♡

WHY NOT? REINA-CHAN'S NOT A LITTLE GIRL ANY-MORE, YOU KNOW.

H-HEY, NOT IN FRONT OF REINA...

...DAD... HE REALLY DOES SEEM TO EN-JOY HIMSELF WHEN HE'S WITH RINA-SAN...

H-HEY!

DOESN'T IT TASTE BETTER WHEN WE EAT IT TOGETHER LIKE THIS?

THIS IS RINA MAMIYA.

SHE'S THE WOMAN WHO IS DATING MY FATHER.

MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED A FEW YEARS AGO.

SO IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR.

IN FACT, I SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HIM ...

...NOW THAT HE'S FOUND A NEW LOVE.

GYL (SQUEEZE)

BUT...

...SINCE RINA-SAN STARTED COMING TO OUR HOUSE...

...I'VE STARTED FEELING

I DON'T BELONG HERE ANYMORE.

REINA-

OHH!

PAKU (CHOMP)

I LOVE CAKE.

OH... NO... I'LL EAT IT.

EH HEH HEH...

"OHH"? YOU'RE A FUNNY GIRL, REINA-CHAN...

...HEY.

I HAVE TO SUPPORT DAD IN HIS LOVE!

I CAN'T THINK THAT I DON'T BELONG HERE.

NO, STOP IT!

YOU KNOW. HERE.

CHON

CHON (POINT)

...EH?

REINA-CHAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?

YOU'VE BEEN SCRATCHING IT FOR AN AWFULLY LONG TIME.

IF YOU SCRATCH A SCAB, IT WILL GET INFECTED.

YOU REALLY ARE A FUNNY GIRL.

AH...

WHEN DID I...?

GYU (SQUEEZE)

YEAH. I'LL BE CAREFUL ...

ZAAA (FSSHH)

SHE WEARS FLASHY MAKEUP, AND SHE USES ROUGH LANGUAGE.

BASHA

BASHA (SPLASH)

RINA-SAN WORKS AT A NIGHT-TIME PLACE.

...DAD HAD NO INTEREST IN LIFE FOR A LONG WHILE.

...AFTER HE AND MY MOM DIVORCED ...

BUT ...

TO BE HONEST, SHE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON I CAN GET ALONG WITH.

AND RINA-SAN MADE HIM HAPPY AGAIN IN NO TIME.

...HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL TO RINA-SAN...

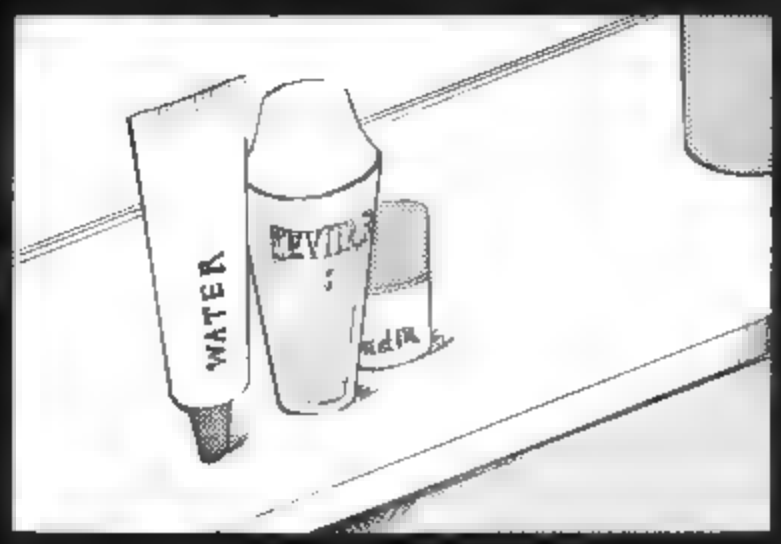
ZAAAA

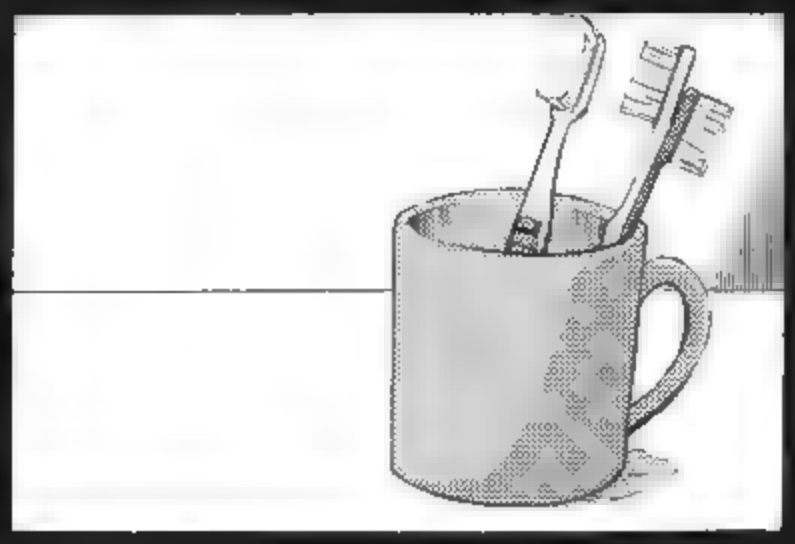
THAT'S WHY I...

...RINA-SAN STARTED COMING OVER HERE ALL THE TIME.

BUT...

BEFORE I KNEW IT, RINA-SAN'S TOOTHBRUSH WAS ALWAYS HERE.





AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, RINA-SAN'S MAKEUP WAS ALWAYS HERE.

THOSE THINGS MAKE ME...

...FEEL LIKE MY HOUSE IS BEING INVADED ...

KYA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BE IN THE HOUSE WHEN RINA-SAN IS HERE...

I WONDER IF RINA-SAN WILL BE STAYING THE NIGHT TONIGHT...

BORI (SCRATCH)

BORI

BORI

MY SCRAPE... ITCHES...

YES. I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR TREASURE.

REINA-CHAN, YOU'RE GOING OUT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

...OH.

TREA-SURE ...?

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

YOU MEAN ALL THIS JUNK...

...LEFT OUT IN THE YARD.

SIGNS (R-L): CONSTRUCTION, NO PARKING PLEASE

IF YOU'RE OUT TOO LATE, YOUR FATHER WILL WORRY.

I KNOW I'LL BE BACK.

YOU REALLY ARE A STRANGE GIRL.

TO RENA, THAT'S A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE...

OHH... HOW TERRIBLE.

...CALL HERSELF RENA ...?

...WHY DOES REINA-CHAN...

STILL...

KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA...

WHAT AM I DOING AT THIS HOUR ...?

TODAY ...

...I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY HAVING FUN WITH KEIICHI-KUN AND EVERYONE. IT WAS A FUN DAY.

I SHOULDN'T FEEL SO GLOOMY.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME.

I HAVEN'T TOLD KEIICHI-KUN OR MI-CHAN WHAT'S GOING ON AT HOME.

THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO ALL THE PAIN I WENT THROUGH BEFORE

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M VERY HAPPY.

(YU SQUEEZE)

YOU'RE HAPPY TOO, RENA?

...AM RENA RYUGU, A VERY HAPPY GIRL...

I...

I HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH RI-NA-SAN...

SO I HAVE TO SUPPORT MY DAD IN HIS LOVE...

AFTER KEIICHI-KUN TOOK CARE OF IT FOR ME TOO...

BORI

BORI

WHY DOES MY SCRAPE ITCH SO MUCH...?

BORI

...STILL...

BORI

BORI (SCRATCH)

NNGH...IT ITCHES... IT REALLY, REALLY ITCHES.

BARI

BARI (SCRATCH)

IT ITCHES... IT ITCHES!

IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES!

HAA

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES, IT ITCHES!

GARI

GARI

GARI (SCRATCH)

GARI (SCRATCH)

PICHA (SPLITCH)

SOME-THING JUST ...

...WHAT WAS THAT...?

PIKU (TWITCH)

ピク..

.....

...NO... IT CAN'T BE...

MAGGOTS
!!

WHY ...?

NO...

AAAAH!

UWAAH!

UGHGH

NGH...

DAN (STOMP)

WAAAAAH!!

DAN

DAN

IT'S NOT TRUE! IT'S NOT TRUE!

DAN (STUMP)

THERE AREN'T ANY MAG-GOTS !!

DAN

DAN

DAN

THERE CAN'T BE!!

THERE AREN'T ANY MAGGOTS IN MY BODY...

...THE MAGGOTS WERE ALL...

I MEAN...

...ERASED...

...BY OYASHIRO-SAMA...

TO

...THEY'RE GONE...

OH...

HI!

[illegible]

IT ENDED, RIGHT?

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA ...?

XX YEARS AGO, HINAMIZAWA

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE BOXES, RIGHT?

HAT: MOVERS

BUT I BELIEVED THAT MY HAPPY LIFE WOULD CONTINUE IN IBARAKI.

WE HAD TO MOVE BECAUSE OF MY MOTHER'S WORK, AND I WAS VERY SAD.

I LIVED IN HINA-MIZAWA FOR ALMOST SEVEN YEARS.

LET'S GO, REINA!

I DIDN'T REALIZE ...

CHAPTER 2: TWISTING WORLD

...THAT WAS THE DAY MY DESTINY STARTED TO GO CRAZY.

RENA'S THE MAIN CHARACTER!
SHE IS!

MY ROLLED EGGS TURNED OUT REALLY WELL!

DAD, LOOK, LOOK!

DON (TA-DAA)

EH HEH HEH!

GOOD JOB, REINA!

KUSHA (RUFFLE)

AND IT TASTES JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S!

HAFU (NOM)

HAFU

THAT'S GREAT, REINA!

BUT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT FROM WHEN WE WERE IN HINAMIZAWA.

AS I GREW, I LEARNED HOW TO KEEP HOUSE, AND IT PLEASED MY DAD.

OUR HAPPY DAYS CONTINUED, EVEN AFTER WE MOVED TO IBARAKI.

AND THERE WERE MORE AND MORE DAYS WHEN SHE DIDN'T COME HOME.

AFTER WE CAME TO IBARAKI, MY MOM GOT BUSIER AND BUSIER WITH WORK.

REINA.

SHEEP

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LIE TO SAY I DIDN'T MISS HER.

BUT ...

I COULD STILL SAY I WAS HAPPY, MOST LIKELY BECAUSE MY KIND FATHER WAS WITH ME.

OKAY!

NIKO! (SMILE!)

LET'S BOTH SUPPORT YOUR BUSY MOTHER, OKAY?

WOW!

THEN ONE DAY...

I'M SORRY FOR NEVER BEING AT HOME...

SHE TOOK ME TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK WITHOUT TELLING MY DAD.

MAYBE MY BUSY MOM WAS TRYING TO ATONE IN HER OWN WAY.

REINA-CHAN.

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO PLAY, I WISH DAD COULD BE HERE TOO...

REINA KNOWS THAT YOU'RE WORKING HARD AT YOUR JOB, MOM.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?

THEY SAY IT'S THE BEST IN THE PARK.

...
WHO'S THAT?

REINA-CHAN.

THIS IS A FRIEND FROM MOMMY'S WORK.

YOU BE FRIENDS WITH AKIHITO-SAN, OKAY?

...
OKAY.

HELLO. THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND TO MY MOTHER.

PEKO (BOW)

ペコ

OH! REINA-CHAN IS SUCH A SMART LITTLE GIRL!

HEE HEE. SHE IS MY DAUGH-TER.

I WAS HAPPY TO SEE MY MOM HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME.

PERO (LICK)

ペロ

ペロ

...I WANTED TO BE NICE TO HIM TOO.

AND SINCE AKIHITO-OJISAN WAS HER FRIEND...

REINA-CHAN, YOU CAN HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

THEN ...

AFTER THAT, THE THREE OF US WOULD GO OUT TO PLAY MORE AND MORE.

NYUM! NOM! I CAN'T FINISH IT ALL!

I'LL HELP YOU.

I CAN EAT ALL OF THIS!?

WA-WA-WAH !!

WE'LL LET YOU HAVE A PARFAIT EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON.

REALLY!?

YES.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO EAT SO MANY PARFAITS! IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DREAM!

OHH!

I LOVE YOU, MOM!

SO, REINA-CHAN...

...WILL YOU COME LIVE WITH YOUR MOTHER?

EH? I LIVE WITH YOU NOW.

WELL, REINA-CHAN

YOUR MOTHER...

...WANTS TO LEAVE YOUR FATHER.

...EH?

...UM...

.....

...YOU SEE, I WANT TO MARRY AKIHITO-SAN.

DON'T YOU LIKE DAD ANY-MORE?

WHY?

...I'M SORRY...

GATAN (CLATTER)

MOM, WHY?

WHY?

I'M SORRY, REINA-CHAN...

A FEW DAYS LATER...

...AND DIS-APPEARED, AS IF SHE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM.

...MY MOM SENT IN THE DIVORCE PAPERS WITHOUT TALKING TO DAD...

離婚届

PAPER: DIVORCE FORM / DATE SUBMITTED / DATE RECEIVED / NUMBER / DATE / NUMBER / DOCUMENT CHECK / FAMILY REGISTER ENTRY / ENTRY CHECK / DATE / READING / NAME / BIRTHDATE / HUSBAND / NAME

SHE!

NO... WHY...?

GAKU (SLUMP)

MY CLIENT REFUSES TO SEE YOU.

WHY!? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!

I WANT TO TALK TO MY WIFE!!

I MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE I TRUSTED HER...

WHAT DID I DO WRONG...?

I KNOW THAT.

...DAD DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

THAT WAS ALL COMPLETELY MY MOTHER'S INFIDELITY.

MOM WAS SEEING "AKIHITO-OJISAN" AND HIDING IT FROM HIM.

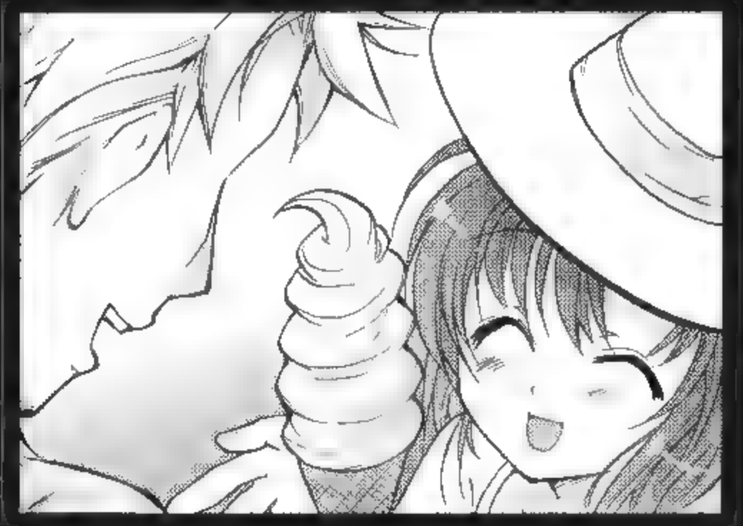
IT'S ALL...

ALL MY FAULT...

MY MOTHER WON'T EVER COME BACK TO THIS HOUSE.

AND I CAN'T ERASE MY FATHER'S SADNESS.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED AKIHITO-OJISAN.



IF I HAD RECOGNIZED AKIHITO-OJISAN AS AN ENEMY AND REJECTED HIM...

...THEN MAYBE MY MOM WOULD HAVE STOPPED BEING UNFAITHFUL.

AFTER THAT...

...THE RYUGU HOME CHANGED.

MY FATHER LOST ALL INTEREST IN LIFE AND QUIT HIS JOB.

MY MOTHER LEFT A HOME WITHOUT HER IN IT AND A LARGE SETTLEMENT.

WE DON'T NEED ANY-THING OF MOM'S !!

AND I...

GASHAN (CRASH)

MY MOTHER HAD LEFT A LOT OF THINGS IN THE HOUSE.

THEY MADE ME ANGRY.

ANY-THING THAT WOMAN LEFT BEHIND ...

...I'LL BREAK IT ALL !!

I KNOCKED OVER MY MOTHER'S WARDROBE...

...SMASHED HER MUSIC BOX...

...AND SHATTERED HER THREE-PANELLED MIRROR.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE CLEAR MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...

...PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE INJECTIONS THE DOC-TORS GAVE ME.

... GRADUALLY TURNED INTO HATRED FOR THE WORLD AROUND ME.

I JUST REMEMBER THAT MY HATRED FOR MY MOTHER...

... BROKE OTHER PEOPLE.

I...

BUT IF DIRTYING MY HANDS WOULD HURT MY MOTHER'S NAME, THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

IT WASN'T FORGIVABLE.

RYUGU-SAN, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I WAS ADMITTED INTO THE HOSPITAL AFTER THAT.

I...

...BROKE MYSELF.

GIGIGI (SCRATCH)

お手洗い

SIGN: RESTROOM

OH?

RYUGU-SAN...?

I WANT IT ALL... TO DISAP-PEAR...

I COULDN'T FORGIVE ANY-THING ANY-MORE.

THEN.

MAGGOTS.

OH...SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON...

RYUGU-SAN!

MAGGOTS POURED OUT OF MY BODY.

RYUGU-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?

OF COURSE I WOULD BE FILTHY.

I AM HER DAUGHTER AFTER ALL.

LOOK, MOM...

HEH HEH... AH-HA-HA...

YOUR DAUGH-TER'S BODY IS FULL OF MAGGOTS!!

SEE WHAT YOU DID!!?

BRING ME A SYRINGE !!

R-RYUGU-SAN, CALM DOWN!

THAT'S HOW I BROKE.

AND IN THE END, AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE...

...
OYASHIRO-SAMA CAME...

...AND SAID TO ME...

"LET'S GO BACK TO HINAMIZAWA."

A CURSE WILL BEFALL ANYONE WHO BREAKS THAT TABOO.

"YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE HINA-MIZAWA."

...ALL OF IT ...

...THE MAGGOTS POURING OUT OF MY BODY...

...MY MOTHER'S AFFAIR ...

THEN I UNDER-STOOD.

IT WAS MY PUNISHMENT FOR LEAVING HINAMIZAWA ...

...WAS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I'M NOT SURE ...

...IF IT WAS REALLY OYASHIRO-SAMA OR IF IT WAS A HALLUCINATION OF MY DERANGED MIND.

...IT DEFINITELY FELT LIKE OYASHIRO-SAMA...

BUT BACK THEN...

...AND I ABANDONED ALL THE "I"CKY THINGS I HATED.

I CAME BACK TO HINAMIZAWA WITH MY DAD...

...AND CAME BACK TO HINAMIZAWA AS "RENA."

I THREW AWAY THE NAME MY MOTHER GAVE ME, "REINA..."

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE HAD ENDED.

I TRANS-FERRED MY SCHOOL RECORDS, MADE FRIENDS, AND BECAME HAPPY.

ZAAAAAA (SHHHHH)

KO...
CKONK.

...THE CURSE IS SUPPOSED TO BE OVER...

...MY WORLD HAS STARTED TO GO CRAZY AGAIN.

...BUT SINCE RINA-SAN APPEARED ...

OYA-SHIRO-SAMA ...?

RIGHT?

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY NOW.

ZAAAAA (SHHHHH)

PIIIN (PIIING)

PIIIN

THE NEXT DAY...

THERE'S LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THAT COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL, RIGHT?

WELL, IT'S OKAY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, RIGHT?

THAT'S UNFOR-TUNATE, HAVING TO POST-PONE CLUB ...

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIN MIN MIN

RINA-SAN'S PROBABLY AT HOME AGAIN TODAY...

YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.

IF I GO HOME NOW, I'LL HAVE TO FACE HER.

THAT'S DEPRESS-ING...

THEN I COULD HAVE FUN PASS-ING THE TIME ...

IF ONLY I HAD ONE OF MII-CHAN'S CLUB ACTIVITIES RIGHT NOW.

EVER SINCE RINA-SAN STARTED COMING OVER...

...I DON'T FEEL LIKE I BELONG.

RINA-SAN COMES OVER PRACTI-CALLY EVERY DAY.

SO I STARTED GOING TREASURE HUNTING AT THE DAM CONSTRUCTION SITE TO KILL TIME.

I DON'T WANT TO FACE HER.

I FEEL MORE AT PEACE THERE THAN I DO AT HOME...

...MAYBE I'LL GO TO MY HIDEOUT AT THE CONSTRUC-TION SITE AGAIN TODAY ...

HEY RENA.

HA (GASP)

はっ

ARE YOU...

...DOING OKAY?

DOKI (BADUM)

ドキ...

...EH ...?

ぱぁぁっ

PAA (BEAM)

OHH?

RENA IS ALWAYS DOING WONDERFUL!

...NO, I CAN'T BE ACTING LIKE THIS...!

I'LL TAKE LOTS AND LOTS OF ADORABLE THINGS HOME WITH ME!!

ぱぁぁっ

OHH

ぱぁぁっ

OHH

OHHHH!

LIKE TODAY, I'M GOING TREASURE HUNTING AT THE DAM SITE!

I CAN'T BE DE-PRESSED.

RENA IS ALWAYS DO-ING WON-DERFULLY.

RENA IS A HAPPY GIRL.

I'M NOT REINA, I'M RENA.

カリ!!

CLAMP

IF THERE IS, GO AHEAD AND TELL ME ABOUT IT.

IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

EH...?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD IT IN.

YOU JUST DON'T SEEM LIKE THE NORMAL RENA...

K-KEI-ICHI-KUN ...?

WASSHA (RUFFLE)

WASSHA

...I DON'T WANT YOU HOLDING THINGS IN AND PUTTING UP WEIRD WALLS BETWEEN US...

...LIKE WHAT I USED TO DO...

...SO...

I THINK OF YOU GUYS AS MY REAL FRIENDS...

WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ME.

...AH, NO.

GASHI (SCRATCH)

GASHI

WHAT YOU USED TO DO, KEIICHI-KUN...?

.....

GYU (SQUEEZE)

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO HELP MY FRIENDS!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING BOTHERING YOU, TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

...I REALLY APPRECIATED THAT KEIICHI-KUN FELT THAT WAY...

IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO WORK OUT FOR MYSELF.

...BUT FAMILY PROBLEMS AREN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN SOLVE BY TALKING TO OTHER PEOPLE.

OH, REINA-CHAN!

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

WHEN I'M ALONE, I GET MORE AND MORE DEPRESSED.

MIN

MIN

MIN

YOO-HOO!

ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME NOW?

HEY REINA-CHAN...

...HELLO...

RINA-SAN...

PEKO (BOW)

...WILL YOU WALK WITH ME A LITTLE BIT?

SARA (WHSHHH)

SARA

SARA

7000

KYA-HA-HA! THERE'RE EVEN LITTLE FISHIES!

PASHA (SPLASH)

EVEN THE WATER IS BEAUTIFUL IN HINAMIZAWA.

SO, REINA-CHAN...

...I HATE BEATING AROUND THE BUSH...

...SO I'M GONNA ASK YOU STRAIGHT OUT.

WHAT DOES RINA-SAN WANT...?

YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU?

IF I WERE HIS DAUGHTER, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACCEPT IT SO EASILY.

.....

YOU CAN'T LIE TO YOUR FEELINGS AFTER ALL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO LIKE ME.

BUT MY FEELINGS SHOWED THROUGH ANYWAY ...

I WAS TRYING SO HARD TO HIDE IT SO THAT RINA-SAN WOULDN'T NOTICE.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

...I CAN'T CHANGE MY FEELINGS EITHER.

...BUT SORRY...

I LOVE HIM.

I REALLY DO.

...RINA-SAN...

.....

KYA HA!♥

...BUT IT'S HARD TO FIND MANY GUYS AS GREAT AS HIM.

I DON'T THINK I NEED TO TELL YOU, REINA-CHAN...

MAYBE RINA-SAN ISN'T A BAD PERSON.

SHE UNDER-STANDS MY DAD.

...I'M NOT AS UNHAPPY AS I THINK I AM...

MAYBE ...

IF THERE'S ANYTHING BOTHER-ING YOU, TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

I LOVE HIM. I REALLY DO.

...AND I'M JUST BEING OBSTINATE...

MAYBE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE REALLY IS OVER...

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIIN

MIIN

MIIN

DAD, I'M HOME!

RINA-SAN HELPED ME REDECO-RATE!

WH-WHAT IS IT?

COME SEE THIS! IT'S INCRED-IBLE!!

DOTA (STAMP)

DOTA

OH, WELCOME BACK, REINA!

TAKE A LOOK! SEE...!

ISN'T THE ROOM BRIGHTER NOW?

DON (TA-DAA)

IT FEELS KIND OF LIKE A RESORT HOTEL...

... W... WOW ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE A GUEST.

THIS IS OUR HOUSE, YOURS AND MINE.

HA-HA-HA. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

IT'S SO LUXURI-OUS. IT'S LIKE IT'S NOT OUR HOUSE ...

MAYBE CHANGING THE ROOM MADE HIM FEEL BRIGHTER TOO...

HE REALLY SEEMS HAPPY ...

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THE ROOM CHANGED SO SUDDENLY.

BUT THANKS TO RINA-SAN, DAD IS FEELING BETTER AND BETTER.

EH?

REINA, WOULD YOU GO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME?

OH NO, I JUST REMEM-BERED!

GIORGIO ARMANI

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MISS.

I BELIEVE IT WILL BE HERE IN APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR ...

THE JACKET YOU ORDERED HASN'T COME IN YET.

THIS SHOP LOOKS EXPENSIVE...

MAYBE DAD IS LETTING RINA-SAN INFLUENCE HIM TOO MUCH...?

KARAN (JANGLE)

カラン カラン...

KARAN

I'LL GO KILL TIME AT THAT CAFÉ...

SIGNS (R-L): COFFEE, ICE

THE FURNITURE AND THE JACKET WERE A SHOCK...

...IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A SEAT AND WAIT FOR IT?

I'M GLAD THAT DAD IS FEELING BETTER...

...BUT I THINK HE MIGHT BE SPEND-ING TOO MUCH MONEY LATELY...

様

THE RYUGU FAMILY HAS THE ENORMOUS SETTLEMENT MY MOM LEFT US...

BUT MY DAD STILL DOESN'T HAVE A JOB, AND OUR SAVINGS CAN'T BE GOING UP...

LEDGER: -SAMA

EW...THEY HAVEN'T CLEANED THE ASH-TRAY.

I DON'T LIKE THE ATMO-SPHERE HERE.

MAYBE I SHOULD TELL DAD TO BE CAREFUL...

...WELL, I'M JUST HERE TO KILL A LITTLE TIME.

はぁ...

HAA (SIGH)

SO I'LL DEAL WITH IT.

GATAAN (CLATTER)

WHOA, WHOA! THIS AIN'T ENOUGH!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE!!?

WH-WHAT ...?

IF APOLOGIES SOLVED EVERY-THING, WE WOULDN'T NEED THE POLICE!!

DOSU (SHNK)

YOU GOT THE NERVE TO TALK TO A GUY LIKE THAT AFTER BORROW-ING MONEY FROM 'IM!?

I-I'M SORRY... THE INTER-EST IS TOO HIGH...

BILLS: 10,000 YEN

YOU WANT WE SHOULD SETTLE IT WITH THIS? AAH?

EEP ...!!

COME ON! SHOW ME YOUR PINKIE !!

DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK YOU CAN NOT PAY ME AND THEN LEAVE HERE WITH ALL FIVE FINGERS!!

KAH GLARE

PLEASE! ANY-THING BUT THAT ...!!

E... EEP!!

HUH? THAT VOICE ...

DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR THEM, THREAT-ENING THEM LIKE THAT?

THIS IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO FIND MYSELF...

YAKUZA COLLECT-ING A DEBT?

NOW, NOW, TET-CHAN.

IT'S STILL EARLY, BUT MAYBE I SHOULD LEAVE...

I'M SO SORRY.

MY MAN GETS SO WORKED UP WHEN MONEY'S INVOLVED.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO ADD THE "WHEN MONEY'S INVOLVED" PART.

WHAT IS RINA-SAN DOING HERE ...?

OH, TET-CHAN!

I'M JUST GETTING SERIOUS 'COS HE MADE A PASS AT YOU, RITSU-KO.

BOFUN (POFF)

RINA-SAN ...!!

DOKUN, DADUM

BUT THAT IS DEFINITELY RINA-SAN...

HE'S CALLING HER RITSUKO...

STILL ...

GU (CLENCH)

WHAT IS SHE DOING WITH A YAKUZA GUY...?

YOU MUST HAVE HAD A REALLY HARD TIME.

...BUT I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU SCROUNGED UP TWO MILLION.

...I KNOW YOU COULDN'T PAY THE INTEREST ...

RITSU-KO-SAN ...

UUNH...

AND SINCE YOU WORKED SO HARD...

...I BROUGHT THIS, JUST FOR YOU.

DON (TA-DAA)

PAPER: LOAN AGREEMENT FORM

AH-HA-HA. GO ON, LOOK CLOSER.

W-WE CAN'T BORROW ANY MORE ...!!

BAN (BAM)

THIS IS A LOAN FORM!!

EH? JUST A—

GABIIIN (SHOOOCK)

IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN TET-CHAN'S INTEREST RATES, DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY COLLATERAL OR JOINT RESPONSI-BILITY.

IT'S ONLY FIVE HUNDRED THOU-SAND.

PAY TET-CHAN HIS INTEREST RIGHT NOW.

YOU DON'T WANT TO THROW YOUR LIVES AWAY...

...OVER THIS CHICKEN FEED, DO YOU...?

EEP...

JUST DECIDE BY THE END OF TODAY.

...WELL, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.

...WANT TO SQUEEZE AS MUCH MONEY OUT OF THEM AS THEY CAN...

THESE PEOPLE ...

...THEY'RE FORCING THEM INTO ANOTHER ONE...

TO PAY OFF ONE DEBT ...

COME TO THINK OF IT, RITSUKO...

IS SHE WORKING WITH THE YAKUZA BECAUSE HE'S THREATENING HER AND SHE HAS NO CHOICE...?

WHAT IS RINA-SAN TRYING TO DO?

...HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIEND IN HINAMI-ZAWA?

ビク BIKU (WINCE)

KYA-HA-HA-HA! MY GENTLEMAN FRIEND?

STOP JOKING.

HE'S SO NOT MY TYPE.

A BORING GUY LIKE HIM?

KYA!

I'M TALKING ABOUT HIS MONEY.

YOU MORON.

HA!

HA!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY FOR ME, TET-CHAN.

HA!

WHAT...

..ARE THOSE PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?

WELL, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW BY HIS FACE, BUT HE'S INCRED-IBLE...

SO? HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET OUT OF HIM?

GENTLE-MAN'S FRIEND OF MISAKI-SAMA ...?

カラン

NO... THEY CAN'T MEAN DAD...

THAT MONEY'S WASTED ON A BORING GUY LIKE HIM! KYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

APPARENTLY MOM AND WIFE LEFT HIM, AND LEFT THEM A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY.

HE HAS ABOUT FIFTY MILLION IN THE BANK.

A REAL GOLD MINE.

HE'S GOT A TON SAVED UP.

HE'LL BUY ANY-THING I TELL HIM TO.

ANY-THING!

SIGN: —ZO JEWELRY

AND HE'S PRETTY HOT FOR ME.

KYA HA HA HA HA!

HE SPENDS MONEY LIKE WATER. IT WAS HILARI-OUS.

JUST TODAY, HE LET ME REDECORATE HIS LIVING ROOM.

THAT GUY...

IT'S LIKE THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING ME, Y'KNOW?

KON KNOCK

KON

HE HAS A DAUGHTER, BUT I JUST PUT ON A LITTLE ACT FOR HER ...

...AND SHE FELL FOR IT HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER.

...IS THE PERFECT SUCKER.

#!!...

HA HA HA

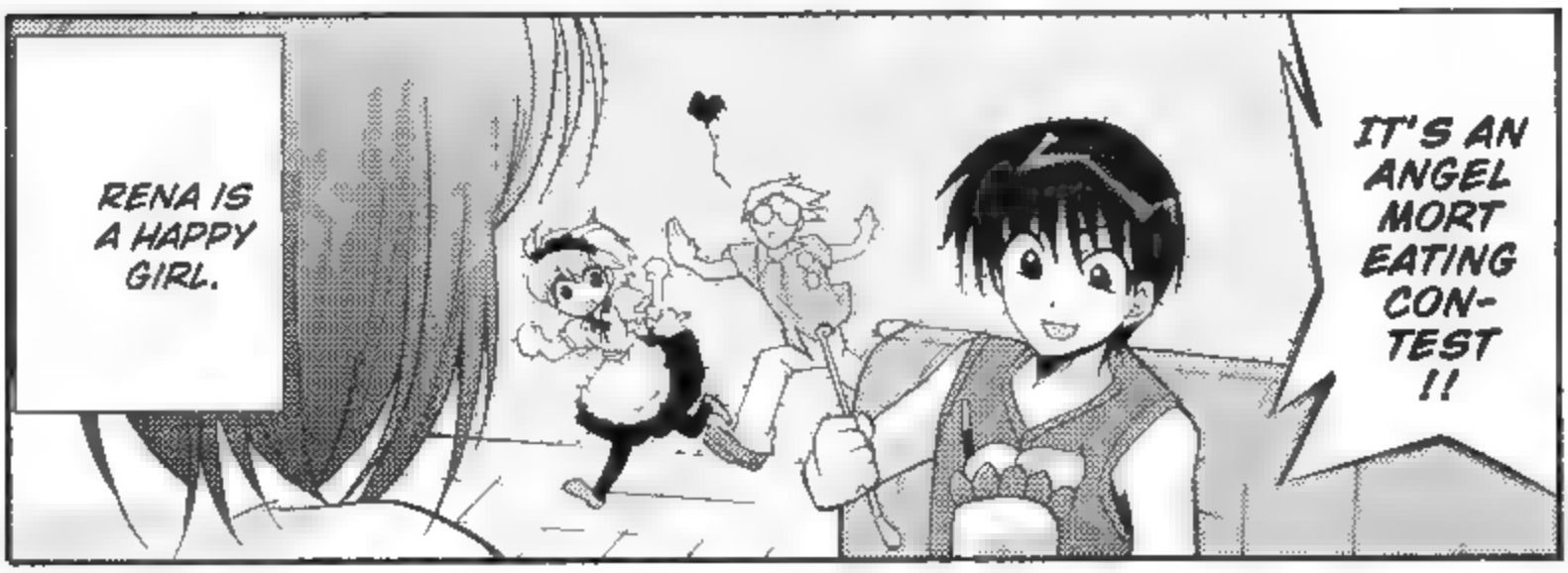
I WON'T LET ANYONE STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR HAPPI-NESS.

THIS TIME, I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MIS-TAKE.

THIS TIME ...

...I WILL PROTECT DAD!!

BONUS MANGA


RENA IS A HAPPY GIRL.
IT'S AN ANGEL MORT EATING CON-TEST !!

I'LL DO MY VERY BEST AT CLUB ACTIVI-TIES!
BFFT!
MOKKYU
MOKKYU (MUNCH)

IS THAT OKAY? IS IT ...?
YOU WIN!
RENA WINS!

PFF-HA! WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE ...?
KOFF! KOFF!
WENT DOWN THE WRONG PIPE!

CHAPTER 3: RENA'S FIGHT

RINA-SAN IS LYING TO MY FATHER.

KYA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HE'LL LISTEN TO ANYTHING I SAY!

AND HE'LL GIVE ME AS MUCH MONEY AS I WANT!

BUT... WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

DAD DOESN'T KNOW HE'S BEING DECEIVED. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING...

SHE GOT CLOSE TO DAD FOR HIS MONEY...

HA (GASP)
は

GATAN (CLATTER)
ガタン

WELL, I'M GONNA TAKE THIS AND GO MAKE SOME LOANS.

DOKUN (BADUM)
ドクン

CAN I JUST SIT HERE AND LET THEM GO...?

DOKUN
ドクン

THEY'RE GOING TO LEAVE.

WHAT DO I DO?

JUST NOW, IT WAS EASY FOR THEM TO THRUST PEOPLE INTO DEBTORS' HELL.

...RINA-SAN AND THAT "TETSU" MAN ARE USED TO VIOLENCE ...

...BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO KEEPING THEM HERE?

DO I SHOUT, "STAY AWAY FROM MY DAD!"?

...EITHER THEY WOULD IGNORE ME...

IF I STOOD UP NOW...

...OR THEY'D THREATEN ME WITH VIOLENCE...

...LIKE THEY DID THOSE MEN...

WAIT

...N-NO, RENA, YOU CAN'T LET THEM SCARE YOU!

DAD'S IN TROUBLE...!!

GOKU (GULP)

BIKU (WINCE)

WHAT THE HELL !!?

CRASHING THE HELL INTO PEOPLE— ...ERK.

AH. WELL, HELLO. IF IT ISN'T...

ZULLLLLLN (DOOOOM)

...

MR. GENERAL MANAG-ER, SIR ...!!

ギロ GIRO (GLARE) 0.0

WHO IS THAT MAN...?

...JUST LIKE THAT...

HE GOT RID OF THOSE YAKUZA ...

TER-RIBLY SORRY, SIR...!!

T...

IF IT ISN'T RENA-SAN!

HELLO-ELLO!

HYOKO (HOP)

OH? ARE YOU ALONE ?

EH? AH...SHII-CHAN?

WHO IS THAT MAN WITH YOU ...?

UH, UM... SHII-CHAN...

COULD IT BE YOU'RE MEETING SOMEONE HERE?

LIKE KEI-CHAN.

MENU: BEWITCHING SWEETS FESTIVAL

OH, YOU HAVEN'T MET, HAVE YOU?

NN?

HELLO.

I GUESS YOU CAN JUST THINK OF HIM AS MY BODYGUARD.

HIS NAME IS KASAI.

...SHII-CHAN IS MII-CHAN'S TWIN SISTER.

IT'S ALL FOR SHOW...

...SO, YOU SEE, HE LOOKS SCARY, BUT HE'S A FUN GUY.

...SO SHE HAS CONNECTIONS TO THE UNDER-WORLD.

SHII-CHAN IS ONE OF THE SONOZAKIS, THE FAMILY THAT UNIFIED HINAMIZAWA ...

MENU: BEWITCHING SWEETS FESTIVAL

...DO YOU KNOW THOSE TWO PEOPLE?

...KASAI-SAN...

AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE, IF YOU SO DESIRE IT.

HE HELPS ME WHEN-EVER I'M IN TROUBLE, RIGHT?

...WHAT MAKES THEM SO VICIOUS?

...WHA...

I HAVE TO GET AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THEM AS I POSSIBLY CAN.

RENA-SAN, IS IT?

THEY'RE VICIOUS EXTORTIONISTS.

I THINK IT BEST THAT YOU AVOID ASSOCIATING WITH THEM.

PLEASE DON'T ASK ME.

PLEASE TELL ME.

...IT IS AGAINST MY CODE OF HONOR TO COMMENT ON OTHERS' PERSONAL LIVES.

RENA-SAN DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'S ASKING OUT OF IDLE CURIOSITY.

...TELL HER, KASAI.

...MAKES THEM SO VICIOUS?

WHAT...

THEY'RE HOODLUMS WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING THROUGH SWINDLING AND BLACK-MAIL.

TEPPEI HOJO AND RINA MAMIYA.

BADGER GAMES ...?

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY PLAY BADGER GAMES.

THE WOMAN'S REAL NAME IS RITSUKO.

...THE MAN BARGES IN ALL "WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY WOMAN!?" AND TAKES ALL THE TARGET'S MONEY.

THE WOMAN HOOKS UP WITH HER TARGET, AND WHEN THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET REALLY GOOD...

...IS KIND OF LIKE MARRIAGE FRAUD, I THINK?

AH-HA-HA! A BAD-GER GAME ...

...
RUMOR HAS IT SHE'S FOUND BIG GAME RECENTLY.

OH MAN, I FEEL SORRY FOR THE GUY.

NOT THAT I KNOW WHO HE IS.

...
AND THEN BLEEDS HIM DRY. THE SCUM OF HUMANITY.

SHE MAKES HER TARGET SUPPORT HER FINANCIALLY AS MUCH AS SHE CAN...

...
DAD
...

GYU (CLENCH)

HE MIGHT NOT EVER BE ABLE TO RECOVER.

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

GARA (CLATTER)

...IS DE-CREASING INCREDIBLY FAST...

THE MONEY IN OUR BANK-BOOK ...

MY DAD WILL PROBABLY KEEP SPENDING MONEY FOR WHATEVER RINA-SAN WANTS.

IT'S JUST LIKE SHE WAS SAYING.

...HE'S USING IT FOR RINA-SAN...

HE'S USING MORE THAN A MILLION YEN AT ONCE.

BANKBOOK: ACCOUNT ACTIVITY / WITHDRAWALS / DEPOSITS / REMAINING BALANCE

AT THIS RATE, RINA-SAN ...

...WILL CONSUME EVERYTHING DAD HAS ...!!

...DAD PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE ME...

...WHAT DO I DO...? EVEN IF I TELL HIM WHO RINA-SAN REALLY IS...

...HE LOST HIS WILL TO LIVE.

WHEN MOM DIVORCED DAD...

IF HE GETS TRICKED BY RINA-SAN NOW AND LOSES ALL HIS MONEY TOO...

...DAD WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO RECOVER.

...I CAN'T. IF DAD DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S BEEN TRICKED, THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY POINT.

SHOULD I TELL THE POLICE ABOUT RINA-SAN'S FRAUD?

SIGN OR NOW TA POLICE

THEY'RE PROS AT ENSNARING PEOPLE.

BUT THEY'RE YAKUZA.

...I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING MYSELF ...

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO...?

THE NEXT DAY...

RIIIIN (RIIING)

RIIIIN

...

HUH? YOU WANT TO SEE KASAI-SAN?

WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

KURU

KURU (SPIN)

O-OHH ...

IF HE LENDS ME HIS STRENGTH, I WON'T FEEL SO POWERLESS.

YESTERDAY, KASAI-SAN GOT RID OF RINA-SAN WITH JUST ONE GLARE.

I PICKED UP SOMETHING KASAI-SAN DROPPED, AND I WANT TO GIVE IT BACK TO HIM.

...IS THERE SOME WAY I CAN MEET KASAI-SAN AND ASK HIM DIRECTLY ...?

...BUT I HAVE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH KASAI-SAN.

I FEEL BAD FOR LYING TO MII-CHAN...

K-KASAI-SAN'S BEARD WAS SO ADOWABLE.

RENA WANTS TO GIVE IT BACK IN PERSON.

TH-THEN THERE WOULD BE NO POINT.

OH★

KYUMURARIRARIN (SPARKLY-SPARKLE)

ALL RIGHT, THIS OLD MAN'LL TAKE IT TO HIM FOR YOU.

OH, YOU DID?

EH?

HEEEEY! RENA, MION!

AH-HA-HA! YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE, RENA.

OKAY, OKAY.

MEW!
☆

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN! LET US PLAY TOO!

YES, DO!

DON (TA-DAA)

I CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME RIGHT NOW...

...I'M SORRY.

RENA HAS SOMETHING TO DO, SO SHE'S GOING HOME.

ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S START OUR CLUB ACTIVITY!

OH, YOU'RE ALL HERE.

MII-CHAN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO HELP ME WITH KASAI-SAN!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW, EVERY-ONE!

POKAN (GAPE)
ぽかん…

I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

ミーン ミンミンミン

THIS HIDEOUT IS A SECRET PLACE ONLY FOR ME.

NO ONE WILL GET IN MY WAY HERE.

I CAN'T JUST RELY ON KASAI-SAN'S HELP.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY?

WHAT CAN I DO...

...TO STOP RINA-SAN'S PLAN...?

ヒィ!

BIKU (WINCE)

RINA-SAN!?

PYOKO (HOP)

ぴょこっ

YOO-HOO, REINA-CHAN!

N-NO ...

OH, I'M SORRY. DID I STARTLE YOU?

YOU'RE PLOTTING TERRIBLE THINGS AGAINST MY DAD.

...I SEE...

HOW CAN YOU SMILE LIKE THAT ...?

...SO I FOLLOWED YOU.

I SAW YOU WALKING AROUND, REINA-CHAN...

KYA HA!

...OH, I WAS A LITTLE STARTLED...

FOR NOW, I'D BETTER PRETEND I DON'T KNOW WHO RINA-SAN REALLY IS.

...WHAT'S WRONG?

...WITH YOUR FATHER.

I HAD A SERIOUS DISCUSSION...

SO HEY, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU, REINA-CHAN.

OH?

UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO CONFRONT HER...

...HAVE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.

YOUR DAD AND I...

MARRIED...?

EH...?

は..
HA (@ASP)

...WANTS TO MARRY HIM.

YOUR MOTHER...

...SO!

...NO!

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE REMEMBERING THE PAST.

...GETTING TO LIVE WITH YOU, REINA-CHAN.

I BET IT'LL BE FUN...

REINA-CHAN?

WON'T THAT BE NICE?

STOP! DON'T REMEMBER...

...AND MARRY AKIHITO-SAN.

I'M GOING TO DIVORCE YOUR FATHER ...

...WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.

DON'T DO IT!!

DON'T DO IT...! MOM !!

NO, NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET RE-MARRIED!

I DON'T APPROVE OF YOU MARRY-ING HIM.

PLEASE GET OUT OF MY DAD'S LIFE.

...HH...

tt+tt+tu+...

I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET SUCH A BLUNT REFUSAL.

...LOVE

YOU SHOULD THINK OF YOUR FATHER.

BUT HEY, I DON'T CARE IF YOU HATE ME.

YOU'RE LYING !!

I KNOW EVERY-THING.

I KNOW YOU GOT CLOSE TO DAD FOR HIS MONEY!

AND I KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING A BADGER GAME WITH A MAN NAMED TETSU !!

YOU LOVE EACH OTHER? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?

YOU NEVER SAW MY DAD AS ANY-THING BUT A SAP!

...OH?

SO YOU KNOW EVERY-THING.

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

ZA SHHHH

ナ...

KURU (TWIRL)
KURU
KURU

YOU GONNA GO TATTLE TO YOUR DADDY?

SO? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I WON'T LET YOU.

AND IF I SAY NO?

I'VE TRAINED HIM JUST THE WAY I LIKE 'EM.

I DOUBT HE'LL LISTEN TO YOU.

KYA HA HA HA HA!

...GO NEAR MY DAD AGAIN.

PLEASE DON'T EVER ...

カ＋カ＋カ＋

KYA HA キャハ♥

OH COME ON, WHY SO SERIOUS?

I WAS JOKING! JOKING!!

AH-HA-HA. YOU GOT ME THIS TIME.

ZA (SHFF)

...EH?

'KAY?

LET'S MAKE UP AND BE FRIENDS AGAIN!

PON (PAT)

COME ON, COME ON.

YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED ME, YOU STUPID LITTLE BRAT!!

GH!?

BAM

AHH!

NGH!

CYA-HA-HA-HA-HA! I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL YOU!!

BUT IF STRANGLING YOU GETS ME MILLIONS, I'LL GET OVER IT!

GH...

UGH...!

NGH

AH...!

GH...!!

DIE, YOU LITTLE BITCH!!

I CAN'T MOVE.

OH NO...

...
SHE'LL KILL ME!!

IF I DON'T DO SOME-THING...

YOUR MOTHER ABANDONED YOU..

BUT

...I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

...YOU WERE JUST EXTRA BAGGAGE GETTING IN THE WAY OF YOUR MOTHER'S HAPPY LIFE.

KYA

HA HA!

AND IN THE END, YOU GET KILLED BY A WOMAN LIKE ME!

HA HA!

SERIOUSLY.

YOUR LIFE IS CURSED.

I'M CURSED...?

THIS TIME, I AM GOING TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE WITH MY DAD.

I WON'T LET ANYONE STAND IN OUR WAY.

PIKU (TWITCH)

PIKU

PIKU

WHAT IS THIS WOMAN SAYING?

...IT'S NOT... TRUE ...

I DID MEET WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

...AND DAD AND I BOTH SUFFERED.

BUT I CAME BACK TO HINA-MIZAWA.

THE CURSE IS OVER.

AND EVERY-ONE—

KEIICHI-KUN AND THE OTHERS WILL SPEND HAPPY DAYS WITH ME.

THIS TIME...

THIS TIME...

...TO BE HAPPY!!

...AM GOING ...

GU (CLENCH)

NGH ...!!

BA (BAM)

GH!

ZA (RUSTLE)

I...

KYA HA HA HA HA !!

G...

GORORORORO...

GORON (ROLL)

GORON

Y...

YOU DAMN BRAT !!

KOFFI KOFFI

KHI

GO (WHAM)

GYA!!

DOGO (WHAM)

THIS IS NOT GOOD, SERI-OUS-LY!!

HEY! TIME OUT!

GO (BAM)

HAAH!

HAAH!

GO

GYA !?

JAKUN (TRIP)

VON (SWOOSH)

WHAT'S WITH THIS PLACE? IT'S SO HARD TO MOVE!

GYAAAA!!

BURAN (DANGLE)

BOKI (SNAP)

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY GAIN THE HOME ADVANTAGE.

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

...THIS MOUNTAIN OF JUNK IS MY CASTLE.

AND LOOK, MY FINGER-NAILS... THEY'RE ALL TORN OFF..

MY...MY ARM IS BROKEN ...

THIS... THIS REALLY HURTS.

GAKU

W-WAIT. STOP.

GAKU (TREMBLE)

I HAVE TO GET THEM PRETTY AGAIN.

THE BLOOD IS POURING OUT.

ZA (SKFF)

ZA

AND I JUST WENT TO THE NAIL SALON YESTER-DAY.

MY HAND IS BENDING BACK-WARD.

ZA

WHAT IF I LOSE CLIENTS ?

IT HURTS.

HIKKU

WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS..

IT HURTS

HIKKU (HIC)

I HAVE AN IDEA !!

AH!

ZA

I'M SORRY! I'LL DO ANYTHING, JUST PLEASE, LET'S MAKE UP!

AH, STOP! IT HURTS, IT HURTS!

DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THAT SCARY FACE!!

PLEASE, REINA-CHAN.

I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT, REINA-CHAN!

GAKU (TREMBLE)

CURRY! I KNOW A PLACE THAT HAS GREAT KEEMA CURRY!

OKAY? LET'S ALL GO THERE TO EAT SOME-TIME?

GAKU

GAKU

BI-NA-CHAN
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE ME BI-NA-CHAN!
BI-NA-CHAN!
DON'T CALL ME—
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE ME BI-NA-CHAN!

DON'T CALL ME

THAT NAME !!

STOPPED MOVING COM-PLETELY.

...RINA...

IS SHE REALLY DEAD...?

...I...

ZA (SHFF)

I...

...KILLED RINA-SAN...

...UGH...

NNRGH.

RINA MAMIYA DIED...

...HEH HEH...

AH-HA-HA-HA...

OH... SO THIS WAS THE ANSWER...

INSTEAD OF RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE OR GOING TO THEM FOR ADVICE...

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING.

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

...IF I REALLY WANT HAPPI-NESS...

I PROTECTED DAD.

NOW RINA-SAN WILL NEVER TRICK MY DAD AGAIN.

GARAN (CLATTER)

EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY!!

...I HAVE TO TAKE IT MYSELF.

IF I HADN'T KILLED HER, SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.

I DON'T FEEL ANY GUILT FOR KILLING RINA-SAN.

WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE...

...TO SAVE DAD AND MYSELF?

I'LL HIDE RINA-SAN IN HERE.

THAT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR NOW.

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THAT MAN NAMED TEPPEI.

IF I JUST WORK A LITTLE HARDER...

...I CAN PROTECT MY DAD.

DAD.

YOU DON'T NEED TO MARRY RINA-SAN.

SHE AND A GUY NAMED TETSU ARE A TEAM OF BAD GUYS.

SHE ONLY GOT CLOSE TO YOU TO GET OUR MONEY.

EH!?

...THE DEFINITION OF A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL IS ONE THAT WON'T RUN AWAY, EVEN IF ITS MASTER DIES.

DAD REALLY WAS UNDER RINA-SAN'S CONTROL.

DON'T SAY SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT RINA-SAN!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

BUT OF COURSE, IT WAS NO USE.

I THOUGHT IF I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH, HE MIGHT OPEN HIS EYES A LITTLE.

...A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL IS STILL A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL.

SO EVEN AFTER HIS MASTER IS DEAD...

ピピピピ!

ピピピピ!
WHO... WHO IS IT?

I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER ONE MYSELF.
OH WELL, I NEVER COUNTED ON HIM TO BEGIN WITH.

THE BASTARD WHO TOUCHED MY RITSU-KO...?
WAS IT YOU?
ガシッ..

EHH?

BAK! (WHACK)

MAKING MOVES ON ANOTHER MAN'S WOMAN!?

HOW'RE YOU GONNA TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, DUMBASS!?

...THE MORE MY FATHER WILL WAKE UP FROM THIS BAD DREAM.

THE MORE TEPPEI WAVES HIS FISTS...

DOGO (KAPOW)

BEKYA (CRACK)

THIS IS THE FINALE OF THEIR BADGER GAME.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE [illegible] TOGETHER.

WHERE IS RI[illegible]?

SAY

[illegible]

NEVER LET ANYONE STAND IN MY WAY.

TEPPEI-SAN.

RINA-SAN ASKED ME TO DO HER A FAVOR.

NOW, I'LL TAKE ONE MORE STEP...

WHA...!? WHERE IS RITSUKO !?

I WILL TAKE YOU TO SEE RINA-SAN NOW.

...AND ADD TO MY EFFORTS TOWARD HAPPINESS.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY ATONEMENT ARC ❶ END

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ABOUT THE "ATONEMENT ARC" A GIRL AND HER KYOUKI

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

IN THE WORLD OF THE "ATONEMENT ARC," ONE OF OUR HEROINES, RENA RYUGU, IS PORTRAYED AS THE MAIN CHARACTER. THE GIRL RENA IS THE CHARACTER WHO TRULY EMBODIES THE WORLD OF *HIGURASHI* WITH ITS INTENSE UPS AND DOWNS, AND I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD REPRESENT *HIGURASHI* AS WELL AS SHE DOES.

THE GIRL RENA REALLY DOES HAVE A LOT ON HER MIND. AFTER THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT SO MANY THINGS, SHE DELIBERATELY CREATES A PERSONA THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THINKING ANYTHING AT ALL. IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE SHE IS THAT WAY THAT SHE IS ABLE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER PEOPLE, LIKE HER, HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN OUTWARD PERSONAS AFTER THINKING SERIOUSLY AND AGONIZING OVER THINGS. IN THAT SENSE, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH IT HURTS HER WHEN, IN THE STORY, KEIICHI IRRESPONSIBLY ENVIES RENA FOR BEING SO CAREFREE EVERY DAY.

I THINK THAT IT'S BECAUSE RENA REPRESENTS *HIGURASHI* THAT SHE IS THE ONE FEATURED MOST OFTEN IN *HIGURASHI* ILLUSTRATIONS. AND WHEN SHE IS, SHE CAN NEVER BE WITHOUT HER TRADEMARK ITEM, THE *NATA* CLEAVER. IF YOU PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION WHILE READING THE ORIGINAL, IT'S TRUE THAT SHE DOES HAVE THE CLEAVER IN A LOT OF SHOCKING SCENES. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT IT MORE GENERALLY, IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SHOW UP VERY MUCH. SHE HAS IT IN ALL OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS, SO I SUSPECT PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE WALKS AROUND WITH IT EVERY DAY.

INCIDENTALLY, THE CLEAVER IS A DANGEROUS WEAPON. DANGEROUS WEAPON IS *KYOUKI*, WHICH LEADS US TO A DIFFERENT *KYOUKI*, MADNESS—THE MADNESS OF AN ORDINARY GIRL. SO RENA'S ALWAYS HOLDING THE CLEAVER HINTS AT THE MADNESS HIDDEN IN DAILY LIFE.
...IN THAT CASE, IF SHE LOSES THAT MADNESS, WILL ALL THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED...? RENA IS ON THE BOX OF THE LAST ARC OF THE ORIGINAL SERIES, THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC," BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN HER HANDS; HER WEAPON IS GONE.
...THE WEAPON *KYOUKI* LEADS TO THE MADNESS *KYOUKI*.
...DO YOU HAVE ANY *KYOUKI* IN YOUR POCKETS...?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP VOLUME ONE OF THE "ATONEMENT ARC." I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO BE PUT IN CHARGE OF THE MANGA VERSION OF THE "ATONEMENT ARC," WHICH IS SAID TO BE THE MOST INTENSE OF THE ORIGINAL ARCS.

KANA KANA KANA KANATA NATA NATA NATA TA TA TA TA TA... I WILL DO MY BEST TO CONVEY TO ALL OF YOU, THROUGH THE MANGA, THE EXCITEMENT I TASTED IN THE ORIGINAL. THE "ATONEMENT ARC" IS GOING TO GET MORE AND MORE INTENSE, SO IF YOU LIKE, PLEASE JOIN ME FOR THE NEXT VOLUME TOO...!

—SPECIAL THANKS—
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA,
YATASAKURA-SAMA,
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KOUNO-SAMA,

HIKARU UZAKI-SAMA, TANA-SAMA,
NIWAKO-SAMA, MUTSUMI BANNO-SAMA,
MOYOMOSO-SAMA,

AND YOU!

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC ①

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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